

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-16, 18-31 and 36-37 were pending for examination. Claims 2, 31 and 36-37 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-30 are now pending for examination with claims 1 and 9 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action notes that claims 2-4 and 9-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations in claim 2 thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations in claim 1, from which it depends, thereby placing claim 9 in condition for allowance. The remaining claims depend from either claim 1 or claim 9 and, thus, are also allowable.

Rejections of Claims 1, 5-8, 15, 16, 18-31, 36, and 37

Claims 1, 5-8, 15, 16, 18-31, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Renard et al.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations in former claim 2 which does not stand rejected on this ground because the combination of Takahashi in view of Renard fails to teach or make obvious the method now recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejection on this ground.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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